

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE HISTORICAL CLUB OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

By CHARLES A. OLIVER, A.M., M.D.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Upon the call of Dr. Charles A. Oliver, of 1507 Locust Street, Philadelphia, a meeting for the organization of the Historical Club of the Department of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania was held at the office of Dr. Roland G. Curtin, 22 South Eighteenth Street, Philadelphia, on the twenty-seventh of March, 1901. At that meeting, which was attended by Drs. Curtin, Oliver, and William S. Wadsworth, it was determined that the club "shall be known as 'The Historical Club of the Department of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania,'" its objects to consist in the collection, presentation, and publication of data, etc., relating to the Department of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. It was agreed that its membership "shall be limited to ten members who shall be graduates of the Department of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania." Its officers "are to consist of a temporary chairman who shall be chosen at each meeting to preside over the succeeding one, a secretary, and an executive committee of three who shall be elected annually." Eight meetings, during the Fall, Winter, and Spring months of the year were to be held, the meetings of October and May to be devoted to the reading of papers upon special subjects. At this meeting the temporary secretary, Dr. Wadsworth, announced that Drs. John Marshall, Francis R. Packard, and Frank Savary Pearce had written that while not being able to attend the meeting of organization, they had accepted membership in the club.

Upon the seventeenth day of April, 1901, the first stated meeting of the club was held at the residence of Dr. Charles A. Oliver. The following members were present: Drs. Roland G. Curtin, John Marshall, Charles A. Oliver, Francis R. Packard, Frank

Savary Pearce, and William S. Wadsworth; with Dr. John Madison Taylor, of Philadelphia, Pa., and Dr. George H. Halberstadt, of Pottsville, Pa., as guests. The minutes of the organization meeting were read and approved. It was resolved that the constitution and by-laws of the club be so changed "that membership shall be limited to those who are either graduates of the Department of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania or officially connected with the department;" "that the secretary shall act as treasurer;" "that the executive committee shall consist of two, one of whom shall be the secretary-treasurer;" "and that these officers shall be chosen at the meeting in November of each year." It was further agreed that there should not be any special meetings devoted to the reading of papers on particular subjects. At this meeting Drs. Charles E. Cadwalader, Charles W. Dulles, and Ewing Jordan were added to the list of members.

Dr. Oliver deposited in the archives of the club the original rough minutes of the organization meeting of the "Alumni Society of the Department of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania" in the handwriting of his father, Dr. George Powell Oliver, the first secretary of the organization.

Drs. Wadsworth and Marshall were appointed a committee to secure a place in the library of the University of Pennsylvania for the "proper keeping and preservation of the archives of the club, the secretary-treasurer being requested to retain them for the present." Dr. Oliver was elected temporary secretary-treasurer until Fall, 1901.

The second stated meeting of the club was held at the house of Dr. Francis R. Packard on the thirteenth of November, 1901.

Dr. Ewing Jordan read a carefully detailed account of the condition of the Society of the Alumni of the Medical Department giving a number of very interesting statistics. He suggested several useful plans to obtain data in regard to biographical sketches, photographs, and class histories. This paper was informally discussed by Drs. Curtin, Jordan, Oliver, and Packard.

Dr. Charles A. Oliver gave "A Brief Account of the Pennsylvania Infirmary for Diseases of the Eye and Ear. Established in the City of Philadelphia in the Year 1822."* He exhibited the original minute book of the board of trustees, a printed copy of an address to the public, and a written copy of the governing constitution and by-laws. He stated that the points of interest to the members of the club, were that every member of the surgical

*MEDICAL LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL JOURNAL, 1903, i, p. 117-123.

staff of the infirmary had been a student in the department that the club represented, and that four of the staff had been connected with the faculty of the same.

Dr. Francis R. Packard read a paper on "The Military Services of the First Faculty of the Medical School of the College of Philadelphia (University of Pennsylvania)." The paper dealt briefly with the military services rendered by Drs. Morgan, Shippen, Rush, and Bond, during the Revolutionary War. A free and full discussion of the subject was entered into by Drs. Marshall, Dulles, Frederick P. Henry, and Packard.

Dr. T. Hewson Bradford exhibited some certificates, photographs, and letters relative to Dr. Thomas Hewson. He also showed a series of letters written by Benjamin Franklin—one describing the advantages of sand filtration for the purification of drinking water.

Dr. Henry cited several most interesting cases including surgery of the eye, the head, and the abdomen occurring in Spain during the time of Ferdinand and Isabella. An informal discussion by Drs. Oliver, Dulles, Packard, and Henry, followed.

Dr. Oliver, in the name of Dr. Curtin, presented a diploma dated the year 1837, given to William L. Cunningham from the medical department. Dr. Oliver spoke of the illegibility of the written portions of the diploma, suggesting that the ink used be uniform and of the most permanent character. Dr. Marshall stated that for several years past all of the diplomas had been signed at the university, thus ensuring this very point, and that the best India ink was that which was employed.

During the year 1902 several business meetings were held at the houses of the members. The following year, the present one, a most important one was held at the house of Dr. Curtin on the thirteenth day of March. Present at that meeting were Drs. Curtin, Dulles, Jordan, Oliver, and Pearce. Dr. Curtin acted as temporary chairman.

At this meeting several radical changes were adopted. It was resolved "that five meetings are to be held annually (on the third Wednesdays of the months of October, December, February, April, and June)." It was resolved "that the refreshments used at each meeting shall be of the plainest kind;" "that the temporary chairman be empowered to appoint an executive committee consisting of three members," (the temporary chairman appointed Drs. Oliver, Jordan, and Pearce as such a committee); and "that the temporary chairman be empowered to appoint an editorial committee to con-

sist of two members" (the temporary chairman appointed Drs. Dulles and Packard as such a committee).

It was agreed that the executive committee be requested to report to the club in regard to the form of a card of invitation. It was also agreed that there be an annual fee of two dollars from each member of the club, this to be paid to the chairman of the executive committee. After free discussion it was unanimously resolved that the membership list be limited to 15 active members.

A stated meeting of the club was held at the house of Dr. Charles W. Dulles, on the evening of the twenty-second of April, 1903. The following members and guests were present: Drs. Curtin, Dulles, Jordan, Oliver, Packard, Pearce, and Wadsworth, with Mr. Charles C. Harrison, Dr. Arthur Van Harlingen, Prof. Edward P. Cheney, and Mr. H. C. Dulles. L/

Dr. Charles W. Dulles read a most interesting account of the life of Dr. Thomas Cadwalader, which was discussed by Mr. Harrison, and Drs. Curtin, Jordan, Oliver, and Packard.

Dr. Packard showed the original commission of Dr. Reading Beaty as Surgeon in the Eleventh Regiment of the Continental Army under date of the first of June, 1780, signed by John Cochran, Surgeon General. He also exhibited the note book of Dr. Beaty upon the lectures of Drs. Shippen and Rush. These were discussed by Mr. Harrison, and Drs. Van Harlingen, Pearce, Oliver, and Packard.

Dr. Curtin gave statistics showing that 18 of the 54 presidents of the American Medical Association were graduates of the Department of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. He also showed that six of the 14 surgeons-general of the United States Army, and that seven of the 16 surgeons-general of the United States Navy were graduates of the same department.

